

Message Text

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43

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ADP-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00

FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12

CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 IGA-02 INT-08 SCEM-02

RSR-01 /122 W

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R 020925Z JUL 73

FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2007

INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN BGEN MZ

SUBJ: MOZAMBIQUE INTERESTED FURTHER LOCOMOTIVE PURCHASES

REF: A) LOURENCO MARQUES 729, DEC 12, 1972;

B) LOURENCO MARQUES A-66, MAY 11, 1973

1. GENERAL ELECTRIC REPRESENTATIVE, VISITING MOZAMBIQUE TO WIND UP DETAILS OF MOZAMBIQUE PURCHASE 22 GE DIESEL LOCOMOTIVES, ADVISES CONFIDENTIALLY THAT MOZAMBIQUE TRANSPORTATION OFFICIALS HAVE EXPRESSED INTEREST IN PURCHASE AN ADDITIONAL EIGHT - TEN DIESEL LOCOMOTIVES FOR LOURENCO MARQUES RAIL LINE, FOR APPROXIMATELY FIVE MILLION DOLLARS. OFFICIALS HAD WANTED ADD TWO LOCOMOTIVES TO GROUP OF 22 NOW IN PRODUCTION, TO REPLACE TWO WHICH DESTROYED IN CRASH IN MAY. (NOTE: CRASH ON LIMPOPO LINE IN SOUTHERN MOZAMBIQUE, REPORTED

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REF B, WAS APPARENTLY DUE TO DRIVER FALLING ASLEEP.) THIS NOT POSSIBLE, HOWEVER, BECAUSE PRODUCTION TOO FAR UNDER WAY.

2. NEW LOCOMOTIVES, IN ADDITION TO REPLACING TWO DESTROYED ENGINES, NEEDED TO HANDLE ANTICIPATED INCREASE IN ORE TRANSPORTED THROUGH LOURENCO MARQUES. GE REPRESENTATIVE NOT CERTAIN JUST WHY THIS INCREASE EXPECTED, BUT BELIEVES IT MAY BE CONNECTED WITH DEVELOPMENT OF COPPER/NICKEL MINING IN BOTSWANA WHICH EXPECTED TO PRODUCE SIZABLE TONNAGE FOR EXPORT THROUGH MOZAMBIQUE. ANOTHER, LONGER-RANGE TRAFFIC GENERATOR MAY BE PONTA DOBELE OCEAN TERMINAL DUE TO BE CONSTRUCTED OVER NEXT FEW YEARS (SEE LOURENCO MARQUES A-90, JUNE 29). LOURENCO MARQUES LINE MAY ALSO CARRY INCREASED ORE SHIPMENTS FROM SWAZILAND.

3. GE EXPECTS REQUEST EXIM FINANCING TO COVER THIS NEW PURCHASE IF IT GOES THROUGH, AND WILL BE PRESENTING PRELIMINARY PROPOSAL TO EXIM.

4. GE REP HAS JUST RETURNED FROM ZAMBIA, TO WHICH GE IS SELLING 18 LOCOMOTIVES. SAID HE HAD NO INDICATION FROM ZAMBIAN RAIL PEOPLE THAT GOODS ARE ARRIVING BY RAIL FROM MOZAMBIQUE VIA RHODESIA, THOUGH ZAMBIA IS RECEIVING WANKIE COAL FROM RHODESIA.

VAN OSS

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